



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND  
 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**Department of Agricultural Resources**  
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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
 Governor

IAN A. BOWLES  
 Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
 Lieutenant Governor

DOUGLAS W. PETERSEN  
 Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following community is advised that the **City of Holyoke** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:**

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the City of Holyoke, as submitted by: Mr. Marcus Gabrieli the Safety Officer.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

**Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM**

**Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall Annex, High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts**

**Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:**

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Mr. Marcus Gabrieli, Safety Officer  
 City of Holyoke  
 Department of Public Works  
 63 Canal Street  
 Holyoke, MA 01040-5836

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau, during regular business hours. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Holyoke Public Library, 335 Maple Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts

**Written Comments Requested**

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Town of Mansfield VMP until the close of business **Friday, May 23, 2008**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of-Way Program  
 Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
 Pesticide Bureau  
 251 Causeway Street  
 Suite 500  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151